



Tips for Grandparents *who are* Raising Grandchildren in Illinois

These simple suggestions have been developed by the Task Force on Grandparents Raising Grandchildren in Illinois to assist older adult caregivers in their efforts to provide quality care for their family's children. The Task Force can be reached through the Illinois Department on Aging's toll-free Senior HelpLine, **1-800-252-8966** (Voice and TTY).

Poison Control

Each year unintentional poisonings from medicines and household chemicals kill about 30 children and prompt more than 1 million calls to the nation's poison control center.

The three most important safety messages to prevent poisonings are: **(1)** Use child-resistant packaging because it saves lives; **(2)** Keep medicines and household chemicals locked up out of reach and out of sight of young children since some children can open child-resistant packaging; and, **(3)** Keep the poison control center number next to the telephone and call immediately if a poisoning occurs. If a young child swallows a medicine or chemical, call the poison control center immediately. Children are curious, and they act fast. Here are the basic poison prevention tips that every person should check:

1. Use child-resistant packaging properly by closing the container securely after use.
2. Keep all chemicals and medicines locked up and out of sight.
3. Call the poison center immediately in case of poisoning. Keep on hand a bottle of "syrup of ipecac" but use it only if the poison center instructs you to induce vomiting.
4. When products are in use, never let young children out of your sight, even if you must take them along when answering the phone or doorbell.
5. Keep items in original containers.
6. Leave the original labels on all products and read the label before using.
7. Do not put decorative lamps and candles that contain lamp oil where children can reach them.
8. Always leave the light on when giving or taking medicine. Check the dosage every time.
9. Avoid taking medicine in front of children. Refer to medicine as "medicine," not "candy."
10. Clean out the medicine cabinet periodically and safely dispose of unneeded and outdated medicines.

To get a free packet of poison prevention publications, write to "**Poison Prevention Packet**," CPSC, Washington, DC 20207.